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Labour Market Information Monthly

April 2010 Edition *Issue 4 Volume 7*

IMMIGRANTS WORKING IN REGULATED OCCUPATIONS[1]

In 2006, there were 3.6 million immigrants in Canada's labour force, many of whom were highly educated. Education levels of more recent immigrants have risen in recent years such that, by 2006, 42% of immigrants who had landed in Canada since 2001 had a university degree. At the same time, 16% of the Canadian-born had university degrees. In addition to high levels of education, many of these immigrants also came with foreign work experience.

One of the principal goals of Canadian immigration policy is to fill gaps in the labour market. With the aging of the baby boomers, a number of occupational shortages have emerged in the Canadian labour market, particularly in health care professions (such as physicians, nurses and pharmacists) and in management occupations. Shortages are projected to continue as boomers exit the labour market. Some projections imply that immigrants could account for nearly all labour force growth as soon as 2011.

This Month

- Immigrants working in Regulated Occupations
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

Despite their high levels of educational attainment, many recent immigrants struggle in the labour market. In 2006, immigrants who had been in Canada for less than 10 years had higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates than those born in Canada. Furthermore, many of these immigrants were unable to find jobs in their chosen fields. And, in recent years, immigrants have become more likely to be in low income.

New immigrants to Canada indicate that they faced a number of challenges in the Canadian labour market, most importantly: not enough Canadian job experience, lack of connections in the job market and foreign credentials not being recognized. Others suggest that newcomers may lack knowledge about getting their skills recognized, employers may lack knowledge about foreign credentials, and there may be real differences in the quality of foreign credentials relative to domestic qualifications.

For many occupations, hiring is based on the employer's decision that the candidate has an acceptable combination of education and experience to do the job. For those seeking work in regulated occupations, another hurdle is added. Regulated occupations are governed by provincial regulatory bodies and/or professional associations and have very specific requirements regarding the credentials necessary to practice the occupations. This study focuses on the regulated occupations since a clear relationship exists between educational credentials and the ability to meet the requirements of the occupation.

Many occupations for which immigrants have trained are regulated occupations. These include engineering, medicine, nursing and teaching. For immigrants who wish to work in a regulated occupation, practicing that occupation outside Canada is not considered sufficient and they must prove that their foreign credentials meet Canadian standards.

[1] Danielle Zietsma, *Perspectives on Labour and Income*. Published by Statistics Canada. February 2010.

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In 2006, of the 1.5 million university-educated, working-age immigrants (15 years of age and over), 41% had studied in fields that would typically place them in regulated occupations compared to 39% of Canadian born university graduates.

This study examines the extent to which immigrants in 2006 with a field of study that typically leads to a regulated occupation were working in that occupation. For example, how likely are immigrants with engineering degrees to find work as an engineer? It then examines how this match rate varies across provinces and by the immigrants' source countries, and the amount of time they spent in Canada. Finally, it looks at the type of work performed by those not working in the occupations for which they studied.

For the complete article, please go to: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2010102/pdf/11121-eng.pdf

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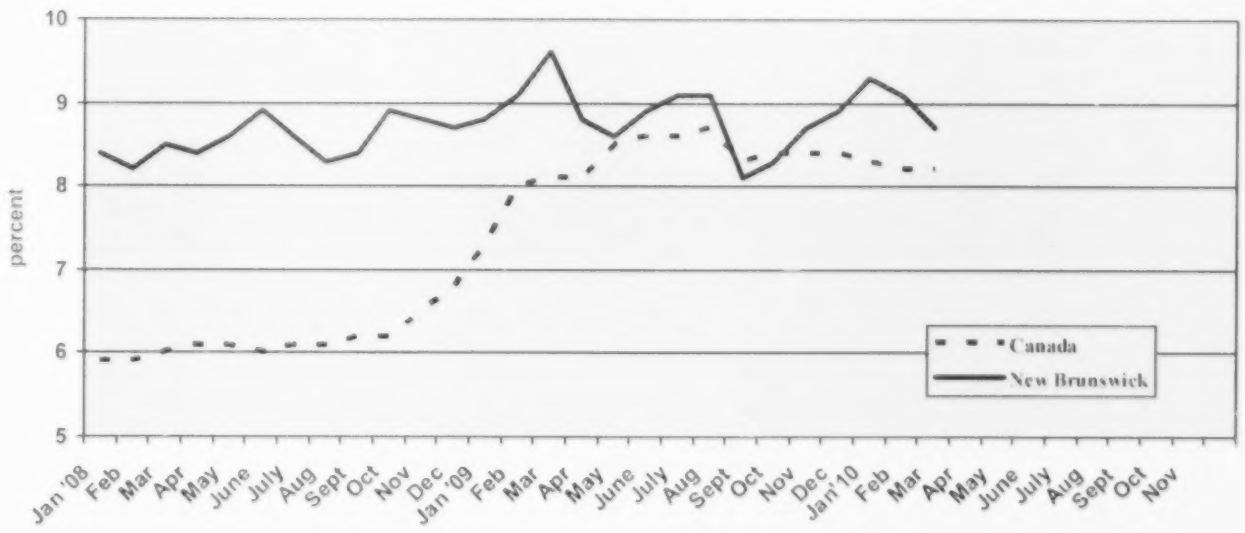
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	March '10	February '10	March 09
Labour Force	402,200	401,300	402,600	403,300
Employed	365,200	366,500	365,900	364,700
Unemployed	37,000	34,800	36,700	38,600
Unemployment Rate	9.2%	8.7%	9.1%	9.6%
Participation Rate	64.6%	64.4%	64.6%	65.0%
Employment Rate	58.6%	58.8%	58.7%	58.8%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In March, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.2%, unchanged over last month but 0.1 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 8.7% was 0.4 of a percentage point lower than last month and 0.9 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year, when it stood at 9.6%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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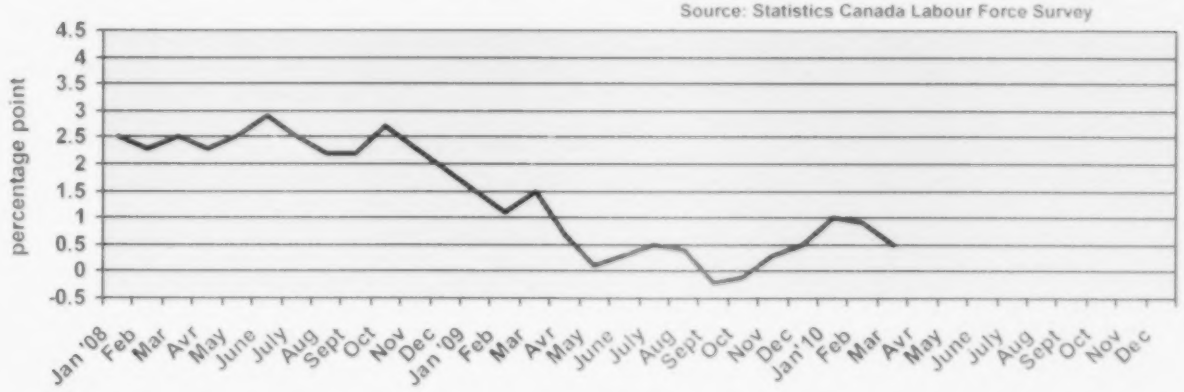
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.5 of a percentage point in March.

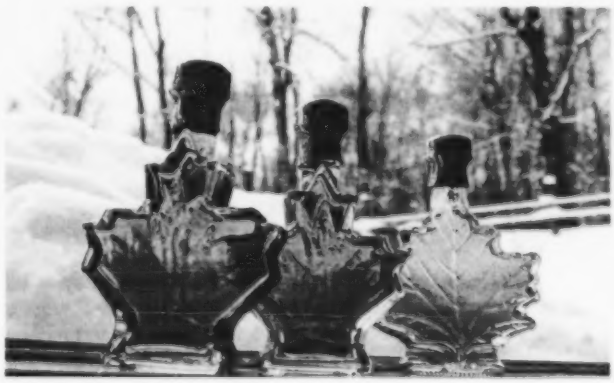
DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

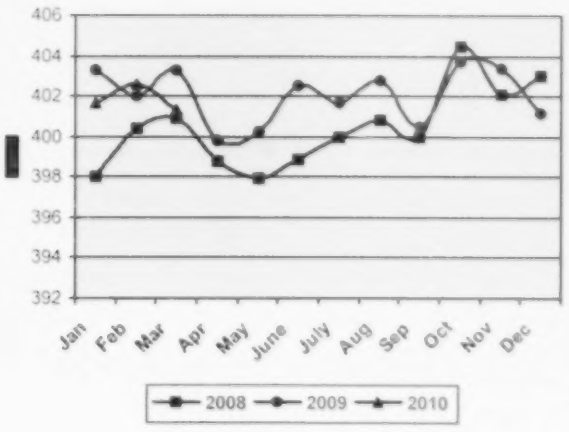


THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 401,300 in March. This represented a decrease of 1,300 over last month, and a decrease of 2,000 over the same time last year.



THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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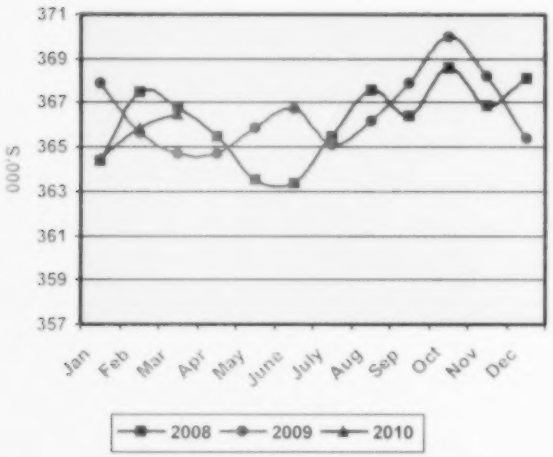
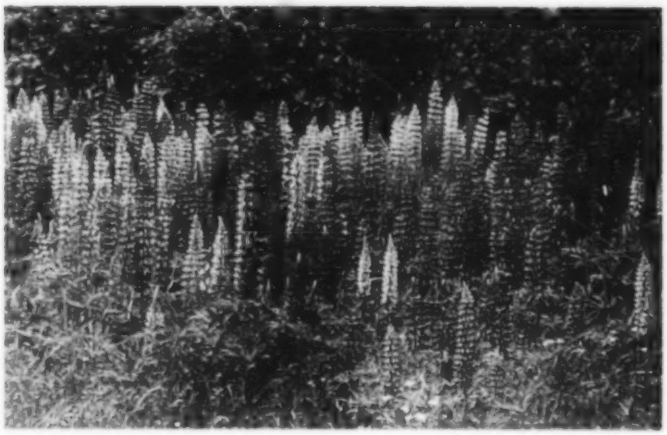
EMPLOYMENT

There were 366,500 people working in March. This was 600 more than last month and 1,800 more when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



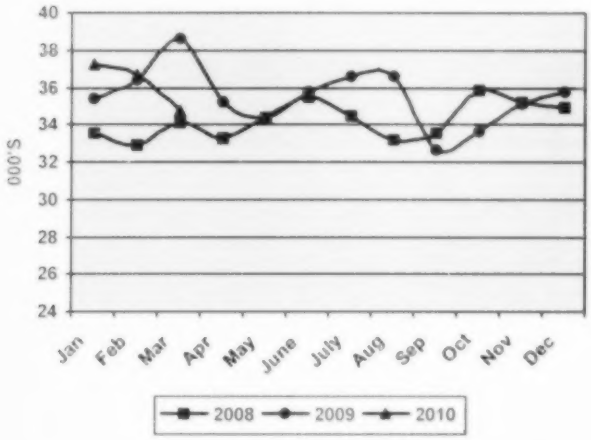
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 34,800 people unemployed and seeking work in March. This is 1,900 less people than what was recorded last month and is 3,800 less compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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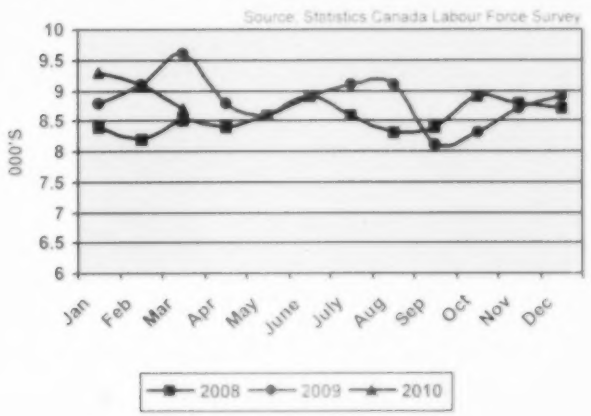
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 8.7% in March was 0.4 of a percentage point lower than last month and was 0.9 of a percentage point lower than the same time last

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



March'10	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	71,100	109,600	92,200	75,600	41,700
Employment	59,700	100,900	83,500	69,900	37,000
Unemployment	11,400	8,700	8,700	5,800	4,700
Unemployment Rate	16.0%	7.9%	9.4%	7.7%	11.3%
Participation Rate	52.8%	64.8%	63.9%	70.7%	61.2%

Economic Regions	YTD		March'10		March'09	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	60,700	15.7%	59,700	16.0%	58,400	18.2%
Southeast	101,600	7.3%	100,900	7.9%	101,400	8.2%
Southwest	84,700	8.9%	83,500	9.4%	89,400	6.7%
Central	69,200	7.5%	69,900	7.7%	64,100	8.7%
Northwest	37,600	10.6%	37,000	11.3%	38,400	11.5%

On a year-over-year basis (March 2010 compared to March 2009), employment increased in the Central (+5,800) and Northeast (+1,300) economic regions while employment decreased in the Southwest (-5,900), Southeast (-500) and Northwest (-1,400) regions.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Information, culture and recreation (24.8%) - In March of 2010, there were approximately 13,600 people employed in this sector. This is only 1,500 fewer people than in September of 1999 (the record high for this sector). This is the tenth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 12 of those months (but given ten have happened in the last 10 months, this suggests this sector is on a positive trajectory). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 21.1% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Other Services (24.1%) - In March of 2010, there were approximately 17,500 people employed in this sector. This is 2,400 fewer people employed than in April of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the eighth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only nine of those months (but all nine have happened in the last 11 months, suggesting this sector is on a positive trajectory). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 20.2% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Construction (8.1%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 28,100 people employed in this sector. This is 1,600 fewer people than in October of 2009 (the record high for this sector). This is the fourteenth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 18 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 5.7% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

*Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) increase in employment.

Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:

Agriculture (-16.9%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 6,400 people employed in this sector. This is 2,400 fewer people than in September of 1992 (the record high for this sector). This is the fourth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 15 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 15.8% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Public Administration (-13.1%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 24,500 people employed in this sector. This is 4,100 fewer people than in April of 2009 (the record high for

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

this sector). This is the sixth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 18 of those months (all coming in the first eighteen months of this period). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 11.6% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas (-11.8%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 9,700 people employed in this sector. This is 3,500 fewer people than in December of 1994 (the record high for this sector). This is only the third consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only nine of those months (seven coming in the first seven months of this period). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 7.0% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Accommodation, and Food services (-11.4%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 20,300 people employed in this sector. This is 6,900 fewer people than in May of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is only the second consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in eight of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 6.7% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-10.7%) – In March of 2010, there were approximately 15,900 people employed in this sector. This is 2,800 fewer people than in March of 2008 (the record high for this sector). This is the sixth consecutive month that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 11 times. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 12.0% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (three months into the year).

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment

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